

Mine works to reduce vibration

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Vibration was a hot topic at the RMA hearing last week.

Dr John Heilig's evidence attempted to alleviate the concerns of residents in Waihi's east end worried about the effects vibrations caused by Newmont Waihi Gold's Correnso project will have on their quality of life and properties.

While over half the submissions received by the Hauraki District Council on the Correnso project were positive, with submitters listing the economic benefits mining brings to the town as their reason for being supportive of it, there was clear opposition from many in the east end.

In Dr Heilig's 180 minute evidence he addressed the steps

NWG is taking to minimise vibrations as well as the predicted effect the proposed Correnso development and mine vibrations will have on east end residents.

Of property damage Dr Heilig said, "In my professional opinion the planned vibration levels from Correnso will be incapable of inducing damage to property distinguishable from naturally occurring defects resulting from aging, humidity differences and so on."

Independent consultants were employed to investigate property damage claims made by homeowners affected by the Martha, Trio and Favona operations, whose vibration levels were similar to the ones which will be produced by Correnso, Dr Heilig said. "No substantiated cases of blast-induced property damage occurred as a result of

these operations".

NWG has proposed a 5mm/s vibration limit, and expects this criteria will be met on more than 95 per cent of blast events.

"NWG will never knowingly exceed the 5mm/s limit," Dr Heilig said, "The 95 percentile criteria allows for varying conditions, including amongst others geological, water and explosive performance."

Dr Heilig said NWG is taking acceptable measures to protect the life quality of those living near Correnso.

A compliance level of 5mm/s, a maximum of three blast events per day lasting no more than 18 seconds and no blasting at night, on Sundays or public holidays will reduce the effect blasting will have on resident's quality of life. NWG will also provide a pre-blast warning to residents.